

REMARKS

Claims Currently Active:

Claims 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9 and 10 are currently active, Claims 2, 7 and 11 having been cancelled.

Response to Rejections Under 35 USC §102

The Examiner had rejected claims 1, 4, 6, and 8 as anticipated by Sekiguchi US 6577361.

With respect to claim 1, the Examiner had been of the view that Sekiguchi discloses a backlight assembly (31) comprising: a light generating part (32, figure 2) that generates a light; a light controlling part (33) that controls the light generated from the light generating part; and a light condensing part (column 12, lines 61-65) integrally formed with the light controlling part so as to condense the controlled light.

Claim 1 has been amended to specify that the light condensing part is disposed on the light controlling part so as to condense the controlled light. In addition, claim 1 has been amended to specify that an adhesive layer is disposed between the light controlling part and the light condensing part so as to laminate the light condensing part with the light controlling part. Claim 4 has been similarly amended.

Claim 2 has been cancelled and claim 3, depending from claim 1 as amended, should now be allowable over Sekiguchi. Similarly, claims 4, 6 and 8 should now be allowable.

Rejections Under 35 USC §103

The Examiner had rejected Claims 2-3 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Sekiguchi in view of Sakuramoto et al. (U.S. 6,369,945).

Claims 2 and 7 have been cancelled.

The Examiner had recognized that Sekiguchi et al. does not disclose the limitation of claims 2 and 3 but asserted that It would have been obvious to combine the adhesive layer of Sekiguchi et al. with the teaching of Sakuramoto so as to prevent the films from shifting and foreign substances from coming into each interface, citing to Sakuramoto column 7, lines 55-60). However, what Sakuramoto actually states is:

The optical film obtained in Example 1 was bonded to a commercial polarizing film having a total light transmittance of 41% and a degree of transmitted-light polarization of 99% with an acrylic pressure-sensitive adhesive layer having a thickness of 20 μm so that Δn_1 directions coincided with the transmission axis. Thus, an optical element was obtained.

Contrary to the Examiner's assertion, Sakuramoto does not disclose laminating a light condensing with a light controlling part. What Sakuramoto discloses is a multilayer structure which comprises "at least one of a polarizer plate and a retardation film and one or more layers of the optical film described above". (Col. 2, lines 2-4). "Described above", at lines 51-53 by Sakuramoto is a birefringent film:

The optical film according to the invention comprises a birefringent resin film and birefringent minute regions dispersedly contained therein, wherein the minute regions comprise a thermoplastic resin . . .

Accordingly, the rejections of claim 3 would appear to be traversed.

The Examiner had rejected Claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Sekiguchi in view of Oda Publication 2003/0063234. The Examiner had noted that Sekiguchi et al. does not disclose the limitation of claim 5 but thought that Oda disclosed the brightness enhancement sheet comprises a prism shape including a rounded ridge.

The Examiner had rejected Claims 9 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sekiguchi in view of Ohkawa (6,339,458), further in view of Yeh et al. (6,429,915). The Examiner had thought that It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill to modify the LCD device of Sekiguchi with the teachings of Ohkawa and Yeh et al. because such modification would prevent the prism sheet from being damaged and make the reflective appearance of edges or the like less conspicuous (see at least column 4, lines 55-59; Ohkawa). The Examiner had acknowledged that Sekiguchi et al. does not disclose a protection sheet disposed on the brightness enhancement sheet so as to prevent the breakage of the LCD panel and a second polarizing axis of the second polarizer being substantially perpendicular to the first polarizing axis of the first polarizer. However the Examiner thought that It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention

to modify the LCD device of Sekiguchi et al. with the teachings of Ohkawa and Yeh because such modification would prevent the prism sheet from being damage and make the reflective appearance of edges or the like less

conspicuous (see at least column 4, lines 55-59; Ohkawa); and improve image contrast and gray scale at off-normal viewing angles (see at least column 6, lines 1-3).

CONCLUSION

In light of the amendment of the claims and the arguments set forth above, Applicant requests that the case be passed to issue with claims 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9 and 10. Should Examiner desire to discuss the application, please contact the undersigned at (408) 392-9250. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-2257.

Respectfully submitted



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